

Resource Management and Climate Protection Task Force
Minutes from the 3/18/10 Meeting

Next meeting: April 15, 2010, 3-5 pm

County offices, 555 County Center, 5th Floor, Redwood City

In attendance:

Kari Binley, Sustainable San Mateo County
Bob Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Pedro Gonzalez, South San Francisco City Council*
Brian Kimball, Ecology Action
Maryann Moise Derwin, Portola Valley Town Council*
Alexis Petru, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)
Barbara Pierce, RMCP Chair; Redwood City Council*
Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council*
Kim Springer, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)
Juda Tolmasoff, Aide to Supervisor Carole Groom
Regina Wheeler, City of Menlo Park

Not in attendance:

Lori Duvall, Sun Microsystems
Deborah Gordon, Woodside Town Council*
Carole Groom, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E
Richard Napier, C/CAG
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA
Eric Sevim, A+ Japanese Auto Repair

*=Voting member

1) Introductions

2) Public Comment: There were no public comments.

3) Approval of Minutes: The committee approved February's meeting minutes: Gonzalez/Pierce.

4) Presentation on Ecology Action and Role in San Mateo County Energy Watch

(Brian Kimball, Ecology Action): Brian Kimball gave the committee a presentation on Ecology Action, a non-profit based in Santa Cruz that coordinates zero waste, pollution prevention, transportation, energy-efficiency, and climate and community programs throughout Northern California. For the San Mateo County Energy Watch program, Ecology Action provides direct-install energy-efficiency services to public agencies, non-profits, and businesses. The direct-install program is a turnkey program for lighting and refrigeration energy-efficiency measures. The program includes an audit, project management of the retrofit with approved contractors, and a quality-assurance, post-

installation inspection. The rebate is paid directly to the contractor, so the customer is only responsible for their individual co-pay. Ecology Action also handles project management, engineering, and facilitation for Customized Rebate Incentive and Retro-Commissioning programs for the Energy Watch program.

In 2009, Ecology Action delivered 100% of its energy-savings goals for the Energy Watch program (2.1 million kWh), while spending less money than budgeted to achieve these savings. Energy Watch's energy-efficiency projects also reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 550 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The committee discussed making a "top ten" list of simple, cost-effective energy-efficiency retrofits that cities can undertake and distributing it to the cities.

5) Climate Action Plan Template and Tool Effort: (Kim Springer/Alexis Petru): A working group of city staff is drafting a template that cities in San Mateo County can use to develop their climate action plans. The core members of the working group include staff from Portola Valley, San Bruno, Millbrae, and Cupertino (Santa Clara County). Staff from other cities – Daly City, East Palo Alto, and Pacifica – have also expressed interest in participating. Gina Blus, the consultant for the San Mateo County Energy Strategy, has been facilitating the group's process at no cost to participants at this point, as she is building her consulting practice. It is unclear how long she will be able to facilitate this work without payment.

There will be a version of the template to address the three types of cities in San Mateo County: (1) small cities with a mostly residential population (Portola Valley), (2) small- and medium-sized cities with a residential/commercial mix (San Bruno, Millbrae), and (3) larger cities (Daly City). The template will also include a plan to engage stakeholders in the climate action process – city staff, residents, businesses, community groups, etc. The working group and RecycleWorks staff are also investigating a tool that assists cities to set greenhouse-gas-emissions targets and evaluate measures to reduce emissions. ICLEI currently has a tool with these functions, but it is based on national data; it is not California- or PG&E-service-area-specific.

PG&E also plans to coordinate a similar effort in their service area, working with cities to complete greenhouse gas inventories and develop a template for climate action plans through their new Green Communities program. C/CAG and RecycleWorks staff will be meeting with PG&E Green Communities staff in late March to discuss integration of the two efforts. However, the Green Communities program will initially focus on developing completed greenhouse gas inventories for all cities in their service territory. Because cities in San Mateo County have already completed their inventories, we do not want to be delayed in our effort to support cities in drafting climate action plans.

The committee approved staff's support of the countywide effort to develop a climate action plan template and tool, with the potential for providing funding.

The committee also discussed better ways to measure vehicle miles traveled by jurisdiction in greenhouse gas inventories (gas tax, DMV, insurance companies, etc.).

6) San Mateo County Energy Watch Program Management Plan Update (Alexis Petru): Based on a PG&E template, San Mateo County Energy Watch's Program Management Plan (PMP) details the program's implementation and marketing strategy. Staff worked with program partners, Ecology Action and El Concilio of San Mateo County, to develop the PMP. Staff emailed the committee with the draft PMP on March 1 and requested comments due March 5. No comments from the committee were received. Staff submitted the final draft of the PMP to PG&E on March 12. PG&E will return the PMP to C/CAG and RecycleWorks staff with comments in the next few weeks. Then staff will have one week to respond to PG&E's comments.

The committee discussed Energy Watch's residential program, which will serve moderately low-income residents and start later this year. Kari Binley explained Sustainable San Mateo County's Biggest User Contest, which Energy Watch is sponsoring. This contest asks homeowners to submit their home as the most energy inefficient in hopes of winning a free home performance audit and money towards a retrofit. Barbara Pierce suggested that RecycleWorks' green building workshop series, A Taste & A Talk, be recorded for future broadcast on PenTV, at events, etc.

7) Committee Updates:

Pedro Gonzalez: suggested that Spanish-speaking staff representing various energy-efficiency programs should staff a booth at the City of South San Francisco's Days in the Park event in September.

Barbara Pierce: asked that staff add the election of chair and vice chair to the next meeting's agenda.

Bob Cormia: informed the committee that Steve Schmidt in Los Altos Hills has found that tracking BTU per square foot is very helpful in measuring building energy usage.

Regina Wheeler: BAWSCA is hosting upcoming water conservation workshops.